

Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous cave formations! ©NPS

Opens May 13. No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour.

Directions: Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms at the parking lot; there are none at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50 F (10 C). No strollers, baby backpacks, or tripods. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about **Wild Cave Tours** and group reservations! Tours operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

45-minute cave tours daily starting May 13

Schedule: From 5/13 through 6/16: weekdays 11am, 12pm, 3pm & 4pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am-4pm on the hour. Additional tours at 10 & 10:30am, 4:30 & 5pm on 5/26 -5/29 (Memorial Day weekend). Starting 6/17, daily on the half hour, 10:30am - 5pm with additional tours at 10am & 5:30pm on Saturday & holidays. Extra tours may be added other times.

Fees: Ages 6-12 \$5.95; age 13-61 \$10.95; age 62 & up, \$8.95; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount!

1-1/2 hour Discovery Tours start June 24

6/24 -9/1 at 5:15pm daily. Try an in-depth, 1-1/2 hour tour of this amazing cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up. Fee: \$18.95 each (\$17.95 seniors, \$16.95 for SNHA members).

Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led walks or talks may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, & the Foothills, usually on weekends. Check bulletin boards & visitor centers to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 & 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, & other items. Remember: All your purchases there help to support the parks! See pages 8 & 9 for hours and locations.

TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, & other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date for your class, call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS

See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper.

JR. RANGER PROGRAM

People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! Purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions & have fun!

Join the 7th Bi-Annual Cleanup of the South Fork of the Kings River!

May 20, 9am - noon

Meet at Boyden Cavern parking lot in the Kings Canyon (follow Hwy 180). Be prepared with sturdy shoes, work gloves, insect repellent, water & lunch.

For more information:
wttemplin@surewest.net.

<http://sfkingsriver.org> or
916- 601- 9954

NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP WEEK!

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, and use a map to know where you are!

- **WALK A PET?** *In Parks:* Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.
- **FEED WILDLIFE?** *Not in either area!* Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.

- **GO CAMPING?** *In Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **HAVE A FIRE?** *In Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- **COLLECT THINGS?** *Not in Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.
- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** *Not in either area.* Stay on roads.

- **CUT WOOD?** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
- **GO FISHING?** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat & Cherry Gap.
- **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). *Never leave food unattended!* Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.

- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour; backcountry spot trips & guides.
Cedar Grove - 5/27
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season
Grant Grove - open mid-June
1-559-3359292
1-559-337-2314 off season
Horse Corral - opens 5/26 (Big Meadows in National Forest/Monument)
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell
Mineral King - closed.
1-559-565-3103.